

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1132

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1893

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, IS, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH ATTITUDES TO SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM
UN BODIES

SUMMARY. IN VIEW OF THE THREAT OF SUSPENSION FROM
VARIOUS UN BODIES, THE ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT HAS MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE EUROPEAN
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GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC

PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. LAST WEEK A NUMBER OF PROMINENT DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SIGNED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP DE- PLOING THE EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM UNESCO LAST NOVEMBER AND DEMANDING THAT DENMARK SUSPEND ITS OWN ACTIVITY IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP IF ISRAEL'S RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION IS NOT RESTORED AT THE NEXT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE. THE LETTER ALSO PROPOSED THAT DENMARK FREEZE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO IF ISRAEL CONTINUES TO BE EXCLUDED.

2. AMONG THE SIGNERS WERE THOMAS NEILSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO); EJLER SONDER, CHAIRMAN OF DENMARK'S LARGEST TRADE UNION AND JOHN SVENNINGSSEN (LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY), AMONG THE TRADE UNION LEADERS; EJNER HOVGAARD CHRISTIANSEN, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY (THE HIGHEST RANKING PARTY OFFICIAL NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT OR PARLIAMENT); URBAN HANSEN, LORD MAYOR OF COPENHAGEN; AND SOME 30 OTHER PROMINENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

3. THE LETTER WAS DRAFTED BY URI YAARI, A JOURNALIST WHO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, AND WAS THE RESULT OF AN INITIATIVE BY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, MOSHE LESHEM. AN EMBASSY SOURCE WITH GOOD CONNECTIONS TO BOTH THE ISRAELI MAPAI PARTY AND THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE PROJECT WAS PART OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT BEING MOUNTED IN EUROPE, INTENDED TO PUT PRESSURE ON THOSE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-LED GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN FIRMLY PRO-ISRAELI IN RECENT MONTHS. WITHIN THE DANISH GOVERNMENT PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN AND PER HAEKKERUP ARE CONSIDERED SOLID FRIENDS OF ISRAEL (JORGENSEN IS KNOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, TO HAVE TRIED DESPERATELY TO PRESSURE THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE PREVIOUS LIBERAL GOVERNMENT, OVE GULDBERG, TO DIRECT THE DANISH UNGA DELEGATION TO VOTE "NO" ON

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THE PLO INVITATION LAST FALL RATHER THAN TO ABSTAIN AND TO USE HIS INFLUENCE IN THE EC FOR THAT PURPOSE-- WITHOUT EFFECT, HOWEVER.) THE PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY IN COPENHAGEN SUSPECTS THAT PRESENT FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN, WHILE BASICALLY A FRIEND OF ISRAEL, IS WILLING ON OCCASION TO COMPROMISE AND THAT LASSE BUDTZ, AN INFLUENTIAL MP, IS EVEN MORE OF A TRIMMER.

4. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY SOURCE,
THE DANISH AND SWEDISH
EMPLOYER AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ILO
GENERAL SESSION LAST MONTH WANTED TO VOTE AGAINST
PLO OBSERVER STATUS AND FORCED THEIR RESPECTIVE
DELEGATION LEADERS TO SEEK SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS
FROM CAPITALS JUST BEFORE THE VOTE. THE DANISH DELE-
GATION WAS INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN WHILE THE SWEDISH
DELEGATION WAS INSTRUCTED TO VOTE IN
FAVOR OF THE PLO. IT WAS THIS EVIDENCE OF
SLACKENING SUPPORT WHICH PROMPTED THE RECENT ISRAELI
INITIATIVE IN EUROPE, THE SOURCE STATED.

5. THE SWEDISH POSITION HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO
TEL AVIV, APPARENTLY. IN JANUARY A MAPAI OFFICIAL WAS
DISPATCHED TO SCANDINAVIA TO TALK TO THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTERS REGARDING THEIR
VOTE ON THE PLO ISSUE IN THE UNGA - AND IN PARTICULAR
TO TALK RATHER BLUNTLY TO OLOF PALME.

6. IN A RELATED CONVERSATION RECENTLY, HENNING
GOTTLIEB, THE PRIME MINISTER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ADVISOR, ASKED AN EMBOFF WHAT THE U.S. REACTION
WOULD BE IN THE EVENT THE UNGA SHOULD EXPEL
OR SUSPEND ISRAEL IN THE 30TH UNGA SESSION, ADDING
THE COMMENT THAT - FOR WHAT IT WAS WORTH - HE
PERSONALLY WOULD FAVOR U.S. WITHDRAWAL OR,
AT LEAST, SUSPENSION OF ALL FINANCIAL
SUPPORT IN THAT CASE. GOTTLIEB SAID THAT
HIW OWN ADVICE TO PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN,
IN SUCH EVENTUALITY, WOULD BE TO A DANISH
SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS OR WITHDRAWAL.
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